International airport near Pune

1354. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to have an International Airport at Chakan near Pune;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for construction of an International airport at Chakan near Pune. All related works are being done by the State Government. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is providing only Technical Consultancy.

Operating costs of AI and IA

1355. SHRI ABANI ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines and Air India have been suffering operational losses on most of their routes as reported in the Statesman dated 12th August, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Air India and Indian Airlines have adopted any strategy to eliminate such losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) and (b) Air India has been incurring operating losses on most of their routes. However, except for domestic Hub & Spoke connections, all routes generate cash surplus. In case of Indian Airlines, 101 services out of 157 services have generated cash profit in the year 2001-2002.

(c) and (d) The performance of the airline is viewed in the context of

its entire network in which most routes should make profit and a few routes may make losses. However, both the airlines constantly endeavour to improve its financial and operational performance by optimising utilisation of its resources. Some of the steps taken by both the airlines are as under:

Air India: (i) Additional A-310 aircraft capacity is being inducted through dry-lease; (ii) The short haul flights to Gulf are being replaced by A-310 aircraft instead of 747s; (iii) Sectors are being combined to increase the load factor thereby reducing costs and increasing revenues; (iv) Older AB4 aircraft have been withdrawn and replaced by A-310 aircraft and (v) Three old 747-200 aircraft which consume a lot of fuel are being withdrawn from operations.

Indian Airlines: (i) Comprehensive budgetary control system; (ii) Cost benefit analysis; (iii) Introduction of "Flexi Fare Policy;" (iv) Fare increase; (v) Better fleet & other resource utilisation; (vi) Improvement in quality of products/consumer services; (vii) Marketing initiatives; and (viii) Cost Control and Economic measures.

Airport at Greater Noida

†1356. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop an airport at Greater Noida for the operation of national and international flights;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to develop Taj International Airport and Aviation Hub. The proposal is at a preliminary stage.

Vacant posts in AAI

†1357. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Chairman, Member (Operation), Member (P&A), Member (Finance), Member (Engineering) are pending since long in Airports Authority of India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.